DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Unless the rates come down it is not possible. At the rates which are being asked for now it is impossible to do the work. We will try to do it departmentally.

Kuttapuzha thodu.

347. *MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any tender has been given for the remaining work to be completed in connection with the Kuttapuzha thodu?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes.

Preservation of drainage thodus in South Travancore.

348. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what steps have been taken by them for proper preservation of drainage thodus in South Travancore;

(*b*) whether any scheme has been formulated for the above purpose; and

(*c*) if any scheme has been formulated, is it being carried out?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) The drainage kals and thodus for which there are maintenance grants are being maintained.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*b*)

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I ask whether the Chief Engineer considers it necessary to formulate a scheme? I am referring to the answer to part (b)

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I want a little more acquaintance with the area. Generally the lie of the land here is so undulating that drainage is more or less normal. There may be cases where there is waterlogging. I want to find out which area is waterlogging.

Pulikuzhi, Ennakkachira and Meluchira tanks.

349. *MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRY (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken regarding the maintenance of Pulikuzhi, Ennakkachira and Meluchira tanks in Sachivottamapuram?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No action has been taken as the tanks are minor irrigation tanks.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRY: May I know from the honourable member whether he will kindly issue an order to the effect that the minor irrigation tanks also will be taken up?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Certainly Sir, I will take up as many of these tanks as possible.

Repairs of minor and major irrigation tanks.

350 *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether minor and major irrigation tanks repaired at the expense of the Government are kept in proper repair: and

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(*b*) whether there is any agency for keeping them in repair?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Major irrigation tanks alone are kept in proper repair by the Government. Minor, mostly neglected.

(*b*) Yes, P. W. D. for major irrigation tanks. The concerned ryots for the minor irrigation tanks.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: With regard to the answer to question (*a*), will the Chief Engineer be pleased to state why they are neglected?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The minor irrigation tanks are maintained by the ryots while the major irrigation tanks are maintained by the P. W. D. or by the Government. In regard to minor irrigation tanks, we take them up once in a period of ten to fifteen years, thoroughly repair them and hand them over to the people for maintenance. Most of them are in a neglected condition, so that every time when we take them up we have to make extensive repairs. In regard to major irrigation tanks, they are actually being looked after by the Public Works Department.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I ask the Chief Engineer what he means by the term "handed over to the ryots?"

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The ayacut-dars look after them even in the matter of improving them and pay half the cost.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Granting that there is no assistance by the ryots, may I know to whom are they handed over?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: They are handed over to the nearest Proverthicar.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: "Handing over" does not mean handing over to the ryots.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is intended to be maintained by them. I believe there is a group of people to undertake them.

PRESIDENT: For the minor irrigation tanks, it is quite an easy business for the people who are interested in them, to put up their petition to Government and offering to pay half the cost. Otherwise Government cannot embark on these repairs. The persons who undertake to pay half the cost are also in charge of the maintenance.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: My position is this. Granting there is no organised body among the ryots, then nobody will look after the tanks, and so the tanks must necessarily deteriorate. Unless a scheme is formulated, it is impossible to expect that a recognised body will take it over.

PRESIDENT: What is the remedy?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to consider any scheme by which annual repairs may be effected?

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PRESIDENT : The only way in which it can be done is by the revival of the village unions or the village panchayats. In the old days, the village union or the village panchayat or a group of villages took up the work—both of construction of minor irrigation works and of maintenance. That system has broken down. It will be found in course of time that very little work can be done in the State unless the village system is resuscitated. Until then there will be great difficulty of the kind pointed out by the honourable member.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : What I pray for is that the Government will be pleased to formulate a scheme by which at least the village unions will be revived throughout the country.

PRESIDENT : I am going to say something about them shortly.

Poikai Reservoir scheme.

351 ✻**MR. S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI** (*Thovala* cum *Agastiswaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Chief Engineer has visited the site of the Poikai reservoir scheme near Aramboly in the Thovala taluk ;

(*b*) whether he has submitted any report on the same ;

(*c*) what is the extent of the benefit and which are the areas that will be benefited by it and in what manner ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have considered and taken any action on the scheme ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) No. The requisite data for a report are being collected.

(*d*) Will be considered when the report is received.

Pozhi in the Kayamkulam backwater.

352 ✻**MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU :** May I know from the Government whether they have taken notice of the fact that the pozhi (പൊഴി) in the Kayamkulam backwater has remained closed and that it is holding up the cultivation of the mundakan lands (saline paddy fields)?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : Yes. Timely action is being taken whenever required.

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